

The O. T. H. A. R. C. Oscillator

May, 1994

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will have a talk by members of the State of Oregon E.O.C. Make sure you attend, and find out what you need to know if and when an earthquake strikes, or in case of an emergency!

OTVARC Members Collect ARRL Honors!

Two of our OTVARC members have achieved the ARRL's highest honor of receiving their Honor Roll plaques in 1993 for working over 318 DX countries. These two members are Gus Amato, KC7XB and "Doc" Miller, KA7BSD. Each has over 318 contacts, which has taken many years and countless hours spent chasing the DX contacts. Finally they have received their just rewards.

Please join us all in congratulating two dedicated DXers for their accomplishments!

Hello All!

Oh wow! It's been a month already?!? It seems like I just got through writing last month's column! Oh well, here we go again. The next sentence is a quick preach to all out there that may be unhappy with the newsletter of late... if you don't contribute to the newsletter, then don't whine. If you do, then be proud of your accomplishment. I know I am!

Well, it looks like SEA-PAC is right around the corner, doesn't it? I hope all of those looking for the next great deal on equipment has saved his shuckles and dimes, so that you can get whatever it is that you want or need. Unfortunately, I probably will not be able to attend. You see, I am about to be a father for the second time, and she is due right around then. It is my fear that just as I am about to go and see what there is at the flea market, I will get this call saying... "Honey, it is TIME!!!" Or, worse yet, I can just see the look on my beloved's face as I walk out the door for SEA-PAC with my wallet in hand, leaving her just delivered, to take care of not only the new one but my precocious one year old Emily as well. Hmm. Looks like I will wind up spending the night with Tom Bodet at Motel 6 tonight.

So, as you see, it looks as if I just am not going to make it again this year. but there is a bright side. Not only do I get to have a brand new baby, but I get to save all that savings for NEXT year. Right. I don't think so either. But it is a nice thought after all, and we do tend to cling to those lovely rosy thoughts.

I hope most of you were able to participate in the Quake-Ex. I am sure they could use all the help they could get. I wonder if any

us are actually ready for the possibility of actually getting stuck in an earthquake. The thought of that about shakes the soul of this particular Virginian. I can take the cold. I can take the rain, thunderstorms, hail, hurricanes, and even the occasional twister. But to consider that the *Terra Firma* that I am so fond of would pitch out from under me and cause me to loose all the stuff that it took me so long to find a place for actually shakes me up pretty good! <No pun intended.>

I have grown accustomed to the <up until now> unquavering ground underneath me as a constant. I always figured that it would always be there like the stable earth I figured it was. Seems to me though, that if it does, we should all get set with the proper equipment and supplies that we might need to deal with the emergency.

How many of us know just exactly what we are supposed to be able to lay our hands on in case of the big one? I know <I'm ashamed to say> that I haven't a clue what all I am supposed to have with me. I always took the Freddy's and Albertsons and even the Cub's down the street for granted. I guess it is time to reevaluate that particular thought isn't it?

If you keep this in mind, perhaps it might be a good idea to come to the meeting and ask questions like that to the EOC personnel that will be speaking to us. I BET they know the answers. <If they don't, I figure they can find out!>

-73 Les KB7SSE

For Sale:

I have for sale a Yaesu FT-890AT with the MD-1 mike, BY-1 Iambic keyer, an Astron R-39 power supply and R5 antenna for \$1800 or best. Call John Larson -N0LRH @ 648-5897 if interested.

non-licensees. The Commission says that it could be difficult to establish after the fact that a particular VHF station originated a fleeting high speed digital transmission. For these reasons, the Commission said there must be on-going oversight of the system and the control operators of the first forwarding stations are in the best position to exercise such control. The Commission also clarified that the station that receives a communication directly from the originating station and introduces it into the message forwarding system is the first forwarding station.

Additionally, the ARRL and the Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs suggested that the Commission substitute the word "simultaneously" for "instantaneously" in the redefinition of a repeater. The Commission concurred and adopted this modification.

The FCC says that these rule changes will enable contemporary high speed message forwarding systems to operate as their designers intended, while retaining the minimum safeguards necessary to prevent misuse. The action to amend the rules took place on March 30th by Report and Order. No effective date for the new rules to take effect has yet been announced.

BAXTER TARGET OF PHONY PACKET

The new rules concerning automatic message forwarding are already being tested by another of those phantom hams who seem to exist only as a derogatory packet radio posting. Almost as the FCC was issuing its notice easing the rules dealing with automatic message forwarding a phony message targeting International Amateur Radio Net manager

Glenn Baxter, K1MAN appeared on a suburban Chicago packet bulletin board. The message originated in Winnetka, Illinois and indicated that the Drug Enforcement Agency or DEA was monitoring various ham radio communications including bulletins issued by Baxter and his IARN service.

The All United States posting was signed with the name Hal and the call sign WA9PVJ. Newsline checked the latest Sam Call Sign database. Guess what. There is no such person as Hal or call sign WA9PVJ listed. Nor does WA9PVJ appear in our latest printed callbook directory.

This would seem to be another case of a packet radio SySop being victimized by a person hiding behind the anonymity of a keyboard and radio while putting the ham license of the SySop in jeopardy.

CAL VE SCAM UPDATE

A second wave of letters from the FCC may soon be on their way to hams thought California telling them that their license upgrade or entry level examination credit is no good. This following the news last week that some seventy California hams have already been notified that examination credits previously earned have been disallowed because the examination sessions themselves are suspect.

Under Section 97.509 of the Amateur Service Rules the FCC has the right to unilaterally invalidate any test session where it felt that the integrity of the test may have been compromised. There is no appeal. The commission also has the right to direct that candidates at these test sessions appear for retesting on or before

DX countries.

TRIAL UPDATE

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We have since learned that the rule in question was Section 97.113 subpart d. Apparently Judge Hutson and everyone else involved in the case believed that the regulation stated in part that no station shall transmit music, radio communications, or messages for any purpose, or in connection with any activity that is contrary to federal, state or local law. That wording would seem to give the state some small amount of jurisdiction in matters of content of ham radio communications to local governments. Judge Hutson cited it to deny a motion by Cardenas and Feldman to change the venue of the case into a federal court.

But what slipped by everyone including the judge, the ttorneys, the plaintiffs, the defendants, the media and even the ham radio public was one fact. The fact that this is no longer the wording of section 97.113 subpart D. At the request of the American Radio Relay League and others, Section 97.113 D was changed late last year.

Remember all the hoopla surrounding the so-called Pizza Ordering rule? The

rule that prevented hams from doing any kind of business over the air. That too is a part of section 97.113 of the rules. And when the restrictions business communications were changed it was also decided to delete any reference that might give state or local governments any jurisdiction over ham radio. The only person who noticed the error by the court was W5YI Report publisher Fred Maia.

"That was changed a year ago, almost a year ago. Actually the rulemaking started in 1992 when the FCC decided that perhaps that might be misinterpreted and they clarified it by changing communications which might be contrary to Federal, State and local law. They changed that to communications which might facilitate a criminal act." Fred Maia, W5YI.

Fred picked up on the courts mistake easily because he is involved with the part 97 rules on a day to day basis. In addition to his newsletter, Fred also runs the W5YI Volunteer Examination Coordinator, the nations second largest VEC operation.

The question now is what will happen next. Will the restraining order against Cardenas and Feldman be automatically vacated. We consulted with our own legal correspondent Joe Merdler, N6AHU. Joe is now retired from active practice but still keeps his ear to the law. He says that in all probability, unless there is an appeal by the defendants, that under California civil law the judgment will stand as it is.

So it would appear that the next move is up to Feldman and Cardenas. Newslne has attempted to contact both parties but has yet to hear from either one. As reported last week Feldman has been quoted publicly on a local repeater as

HANDI-HAMS ON 145.27

Not often mentioned on repeaters other than 145.27 is the Handi-Hams net. The net meets every Sunday at 8:30 PM (Local) and has been in continuous operation since June 1, 1992. More about the net's origins later in this article, but I wanted to invite any and all of you to listen in some Sunday night, whether you are handicapped or not. If you think this net might interest you, call Frank WB7DZG, net manager for Handi-Hams, at 641-3702 for further information and for the repeater P(ivate) L(ine) tones.

You might feel uncomfortable joining a conversation you think is specifically for handicapped amateur operators, however, you might consider becoming a "Friend of Handi-Hams". This appellation signifies that you believe in what the net is trying to accomplish and you may even come through with some specific help, such as providing transportation to a radio store, or lending some physical stamina to raise a new antenna.

The net's aim is to empower handicapped operators, to discuss topics of general interest to those participating in each net, and to have lots of fun! Some hams who regularly check into the net work on a variety of special projects, all of which promote ham radio and related education. Of current interest is securing permission and equipment to assemble a station at the Oral Hull Foundation for the Blind; providing an amateur radio demonstration and discussion to a Multiple Sclerosis support group; obtaining approval to lend control operator support to the local Shiners Hospital so kids in Portland can meet Shiners Hospital kids in Seattle via the Intertie; and maintaining the

Handi-Hams VE group, which is available to meet individuals' testing needs when required.

Back to the net's beginnings.... The idea for the net came out of a ragchew on the 145.27 machine. Of those hams originally involved, only WB7DZG remains active in the net. The local Handi-Hams net is not currently affiliated with the Courage Rehabilitation Center, home of the original Courage Handi-Hams, in Minnesota. Some participants in Handi-Hams are also Courage members, and WB7DZG is looking into the possibility of joining their network.

Making use of the Intertie offers an interesting aspect to the net as well as provides opportunities for participants to make new friends. Currently, only the North/South trunk is in operation during the net, which can involve hams from Portland to Canada. At one time, the net accessed the entire range of the Intertie system, an operating procedure I would hope to see return.

So, if anything mentioned in this article piques your interest, I ask that you join us. Once again, the day is any Sunday, the time is 8:30 PM (Local), the frequency is 145.27. You even qualify for an impressive looking certificate after five consecutive check ins!

73's KB7YWX
Robin Parker-Resnick

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From the warped mind of the President:

It's time again for another adventure of "As the Dial Turns." First off, thanks to all of you who were active during the recent quake-ex. We will have representatives from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for Washington County, located in Hillsboro and Washington County A.R.E.S. at an upcoming meeting who will present a program about the exercise.

Next, I regret to announce the resignation of our Vice President, Chris Black - N7MWL. For personal reasons, Chris had decided not to continue as our vice president and to pursue activities in other areas of interest. Chris has been and continues to be actively involved in Emergency Services in the Washington County area. I wish Chris good luck in whatever he does and thank him for his service to the club during the last four months.

Due to Chris's resignation, the board will be appointing a Vice President Pro-Tem until an election can be held. If you are interested in working on the board, please let any of the current members know. The main duties of the vice president include arranging the monthly speakers and acting as a facilitator and coordinator for several other special interest groups within the club.

Now, on to other subjects. Field Day is approaching rapidly. We need your input as to a location, activities, food, etcetera. Let your feelings known to Carl Clawson - WS7L. Carl is currently working on the plans for this year and would appreciate the help. You can contact him at the number listed elsewhere in this newsletter and/or at the next general club meeting in May.

Are you willing to work with other hams? Do you have the time to spend helping hams who may have difficulties pursuing our shared hobby? See the article in this issue concerning "Handy Hams". It is a worthwhile endeavor that is appreciated by those who are helped and gives the helpers a good feeling.

We are looking for a cadre of hams to help others installing antennas and towers. There are a group of hams from the club who have been rather active helping with this type of activities. They include Bob Cowen - K17QI, Neil McKie - WA6KLA, Burt Rooke - K17JX, Doug Jackson - KB7RHF and several others (including the fat old bear who is only allowed to work on the ground crew). If you have a need for this type of help, give any of us a call and we will see what we can do to get a crew heading in your direction.

SEA-PAC is very - VERY close. Don't forget to send in

your registration. The program this year should be have something for everybody. There will be programs for hams and non-hams alike. Trudi (my love interest for the last 23.5 years) is heading up the Hospitality rooms for the "Others" (non-ham spouses and companions). The luncheon on Saturday will have as the guest speaker, Tammy Donahue, the current "Mrs. Hospitality", a title held in the Mrs. America Pageant. Tammy is employed by the City of Eugene and works extensively with various victim advocate programs in Eugene and the Lane County Area. If you are looking for something to do on Saturday while your spouse looks at the same radio for the umpteenth time, consider the "Others Luncheon" (as described on the brochure) as an activity worth your time.

I was asked to work part of the recent SET by setting up a portable packet station in conjunction with the disaster shelter located in Beaverton. I was able to work out of the new "COW" (Chapter on Wheels) vehicle which is impressive. If you have a chance, give it a look at SEA-PAC this year. It will be there on display.

That's about it for me this month. Remember, we all represent the rest of amateur community. Get involved. It is the best way to pass along to others, what amateur radio is all about.

Until next time, always remember:
Two wrongs don't make a right but,
Three rights make a left.
73 - Bill N7VZF

The FCC has released an updated schedule of fines it can charge you for violating its rules: minor violations - \$625; failure to identify your station - \$1,250; using unauthorized equipment - \$5,000; running excessive power, failing to respond to an FCC communication, or operating on an unauthorized frequency - \$10,000; transmitting legally indecent material or words - \$12,500; being the source of malicious interference to another ham station - \$17,500; failing to permit the FCC to inspect your station - \$18,500; and misusing a distress or safety frequency or issuing false distress communications - \$20,000. These are base fines and the Commission can raise the amount by 90 percent if it can prove the violation was intentional or caused substantial harm. While these fines are aimed mostly at commercial users of the radio spectrum, the FCC notes that any can and will be applied to personal radio users as well.

LAMBDA vs. ARRL

The Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities has announced that it has reasonable cause to believe that the American Radio Relay League has discriminated against a gay ham radio club. This, when the League refused to publish the gay club's notices in the classified advertising section of its QST Magazine.

In a March 18th initial decision on litigation brought by the LAMBDA Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Commission affirmed the case investigator's finding that ARRL's refusal to publish the LAMBDA Amateur Radio Club ad was motivated by the club member's sexual orientation. The hearing board refused to accept the League's defense that it excluded the ad because the group is issue oriented. It was noted that while the ARRL has refused to publish LARC's ad for nearly ten years, it has continued to publish classified advertisements for other ham radio clubs including Jehovah's Witnesses, missionaries and animal rights groups. The Commission held that the issue in this instance is clearly the fact that LARC's members identify themselves as being Gay.

LAMBDA President Jim Kelly, KK3K has issued a statement saying that in his view the time has come for responsible individuals at the ARRL to publicly acknowledge the unfairness of their past practices, adopt and publish a non-discrimination policy which includes sexual orientation, and to work with LARC in the spirit of cooperation and good will which has always characterized the amateur radio service.

There has been no comment on the

Commission finding nor any response to Kelly from the ARRL or its legal staff. None is expected until after a full hearing on the case that is now scheduled for sometime in June and any appeals that will most certainly follow, no matter which side is victorious in the hearing room.

COMMISSION AMENDS RULES CONCERNING MESSAGE FORWARDING

The FCC has relaxed the amateur service rules to enable modern message forwarding systems to operate at hundreds of characters per second while retaining safeguards to prevent misuse.

To the FCC, a message forwarding system is a group of amateur stations participating in a voluntary, cooperative, interactive arrangement. Under such a plan the communications from the control operator of an originating station are transmitted to one or more destination stations via forwarding stations, which may or may not be automatically controlled. Currently, the control operator of each station is held individually accountable for each message retransmitted, resulting in unnecessary content review and delays. In a filing on the matter, the American Relay League stated that the obligation of the control operator of the first forwarding station should be the establishment of the identity of the station originating the message. Only when this is not done should these control operators be held accountable for improper message content.

Also, there is currently no central supervisory authority in an ad hoc amateur service digital network, making these unsupervised systems easy targets for misuse by uncooperative operators and

a pre-determined date. If a person so ordered fails to take a retest the FCC can cancel the upgraded operator and station licenses of that applicant. In an instance of such a cancellation, the person will be issued a new operator and station license consistent with previously completed test elements that have not been disqualified. If the elements disallowed are for entry level licenses like the Novice or codefree Technician, the applicant will automatically lose all operating privileges and will essentially become a non-ham. If the FCC holds true to form, the next step in its clean-up of the statewide California VE testing scandal will probably be the issuance of either Notice of Apparent Liability to Monetary Forfeiture, license suspension, Show Cause orders or both against those that the FCC suspects to be the masterminds behind the testing fraud. And because of the number of licenses alleged to have been issued under the various schemes there is a better than even chance that the FCC will approach the Department of Justice seeking criminal complaints as well.

True, a good part of this is supposition on our part but it comes from years of watching the FCC and the way in which the government reacts in situations like this. Its also widely held that the All-Volunteer testing program is a kind of sacred cow to the staff at 1919 M Street in Washington, DC. Those who violate its sanctity are shown little leniency by the FCC.

L. A. MARATHON UPDATE

Now a follow-up to our Los Angeles Marathon story of a few weeks ago about runner Fred Doob, AA8FQ. We are pleased to tell you that Fred raised more

than \$2000 for the Childrens Cancer Research Fund while running the twenty-six mile event. AA8FQ made more than 400 contacts on 144 and 440 MHz using an Icom dual band hand-held transceiver. Icom donated five dollars to the research fund for each contact made.

Doob, 47, topped his run last November in the New York City Marathon by 100 contacts and bettered his time by 15 minutes. He says that he averages about 3.5 hours in a marathon without radio but the same run takes about 5 hours when he operates.

The race was televised in Los Angeles by Chris-Craft station KCOP television channel 13. KCOP news also did a profile of AA8FQ's run for charity the evening of the marathon that included tape of him, at the finish line, and inside the Amateur Radio communications tent that's used to run several nets in support of the annual event.

AA8FQ's on-air operation was coordinated by the Baldwin Hills Amateur Radio Club and organized by its President Ed Walker, WA6MDJ. Fred's principal net control was Keith Glispie, WA6TFD. Glispie will be on hand at the 1994 Dayton Hamvention Media forum on Sunday May 1st to tell about the association of his radio club with Doob and the marathon race.

DX OPERATION TO MALTA ON ICE

In DX, word that the 1A0KM, Sovereign Military Order of Malta operation is on ice. "The DX Bulletin" reports that the operation has been postponed indefinitely due to restrictions imposed by the enclave's managers. This is more bad news for this DXCC country which is ranked 20th on the "Most Wanted List" of

DX countries.

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OTVARC TRAVELERS

MAY OUTING

The Travelers campout for May will be at Cape Lookout State Park on May 20 thru the 22nd. I will go to the park Thursday or early Friday morning to try to get a group of sites together) I will need to pay for the sites at that time so I would like to get everyones fees of \$16.00 per nite at the May club meeting. I will also need to know how many will be in each party and the rig info. If you need to make other arrangements please contact me as soon as possible. Thanks. John Burgess 649-9095

saying that he intends to appeal the judgment. Whether either man will do so is at this time unknown.

Meantime, if your copy of the Amateur Radio Rules and Regulations is dated 1993 or earlier, we might suggest you getting a new copy. Especially if you have to use it to defend yourself in a court of law.

STS-59 SAREX MISSION UNDERWAY

On Saturday April 9th, the Space Shuttle Endeavour rose into the early morning skies of the Kennedy Space Center signaling the beginning of yet another manned Amateur Radio mission in space. This one known as shuttle flight STS-59. The spectacular, on-time launch occurred precisely at 7:05 Eastern Daylight Time. SAREX, The Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment was activated approximately 3 hours after liftoff with a check pass while over San Diego, California.

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